

***Amendments to the Claims***

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

1. (currently amended) A method of purifying recombinant human erythropoietin from cell culture supernatants comprising ~~by~~ a combination of the following steps:

- (a) differential saline precipitation;
- (b) hydrophobic interaction chromatography;
- (c) concentration and diafiltration;
- (d) anionic exchange chromatography;
- (e) cationic exchange chromatography;
- (f) concentration and diafiltration; and
- (g) molecular exclusion chromatography.

2. (currently amended) The method of ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein steps ~~a~~ (a) through ~~g~~ (g) are performed in the following order: (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f) and (g).

3. (currently amended) The method of ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein steps ~~a~~ (a) through ~~g~~ (g) are performed in the following order: (a), (c), (d), (e), (b), (f) and (g).

4. (currently amended) The method of ~~Claim~~ claim 1, wherein step ~~a~~ (a) comprises adding ammonium sulfate to said culture supernatant, followed by centrifugation.

5. (currently amended) The method of Claim claim 1, wherein step (b) comprises using a hydrophobic interaction matrix.

6. (currently amended) The method of Claim claim 5, wherein said hydrophobic interaction matrix ~~employed~~ is Phenyl Sepharose 6 Fast Flow.

7. (currently amended) The method of Claim claim 1, wherein step (d) comprises using an anionic exchange matrix.

8. (currently amended) The method of Claim claim 7, wherein said anionic exchange matrix is Q-Sepharose Fast Flow.

9. (currently amended) The method of Claim claim 1, wherein step (e) comprises using a cationic exchange matrix.

10. (currently amended) The method of Claim claim 9, wherein said cationic exchange matrix is SP-Sepharose Fast Flow.

11. (currently amended) The method of Claim claim 1, wherein step (g) comprises using a molecular exclusion matrix.

12. (currently amended) The method of Claim claim 11, wherein said molecular exclusion matrix ~~employed~~ is Sephadryl S-200 HP.

13. (currently amended) A substantially pure erythropoietin, produced according to the method of Claim claim 1.

14. (currently amended) The erythropoietin according to Claim claim 13, wherein said EPO erythropoietin has a purity exceeding 99% as determined by a polyacrylamide polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis analysis (SDS-PAGE) and reverse phase and molecular exclusion liquid chromatography.

15. (currently amended) The erythropoietin according to Claim claim 13, wherein said EPO erythropoietin is characterized by a series of isoforms of isoelectric point values between 3.0 and 4.5.

16. (currently amended) The erythropoietin according to Claim claim 13, wherein said EPO erythropoietin comprises ~~shows homology to~~ the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:1.